

public services at low cost and wealth enough to support a substantial portion of those services. It suggests various ways of meeting these goals, the city-county consolidation, for example, in urban areas and consolidation of counties in rural areas. It estimates, for example, that two-thirds of all the counties in the United States have areas of less than 800 square miles which is suggested as a conservative size of convenience; nearly two-thirds of counties and 95 per cent of towns and townships have populations of less than 25,000.

This is a valuable reference work for anyone who must deal with various levels of government and particularly for the state official whose task is to further consolidation of local units. He will also find this bit of useful advice, "The persuasive devices of supervision are the most effective."

MARTHA LUGINBUHL

A Medical Survey of the Bituminous Coal Industry: Report of the Coal Mines Administration—Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1947. 224 pp. XXIV pp. foreword and preface. Supplement, 67 pp. Price, \$1.75.

The study was made under the direction of Rear Admiral Joel T. Boone, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy, by a staff of naval officers, enlisted men and civilian technical advisers, pursuant to Section 5 of the agreement of May 29, 1946, made by J. A. Krug, then acting as Coal Mines Administrator of the U. S. Government (now Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior), and the President of the United Mine Workers of America, John L. Lewis.

Under the terms of Section 5, the Coal Mines Administrator agreed to have made, "A comprehensive survey and study of the hospital and medical facilities, medical treatment, sanitary, and housing conditions in the coal mining areas. The purpose of this survey will

be to determine the character and scope of improvements which should be made to provide the mine workers of the nation with medical, housing, and sanitary facilities conforming to recognized American standards."

The bituminous coal industry is big industry. In 1946, more than 525½ million tons of bituminous coal were mined in the United States. The largest part of this was produced in eight of the states, but twelve other states also produced considerable amounts. In the year 1945, more than 383,000 men were employed in 7,033 bituminous coal mines. An index of the economic status of the bituminous coal miner may be obtained from a consideration of a few basic figures. In 1945, the average hourly earnings were \$1.24 but there has always been great variation in the number of hours worked each year in the same mine and among the various mines. The report gives the estimated average annual earning of bituminous coal miners for the year 1945 as \$2,650.

The field work of the study was done by five field teams, each composed of a medical officer, an engineering officer, and a welfare and recreation officer, together with a chief yeoman as clerk. The selection of the mines to be studied was based on a population basis with a random selection of the mines themselves. "In those districts in which the population of miners was largest, the most mines were selected." As a result, 14 per cent of the mines in government custody (260 mines), employing 22 per cent of the miners (71,850), and yielding 18 per cent of the coal output, were studied. In the opinion of the reviewer, this sampling procedure was eminently satisfactory and undoubtedly yielded representative findings.

The body of the report is presented in seven sections, namely, housing and sanitary facilities, public health, industrial medicine, general medical services, hospitalization, hospital facilities, and off-

the-job living. Each of these is in turn broken down into a number of sub-headings in which the material is presented in a summary fashion which is unusually succinct but, nevertheless, so well substantiated factually as to be very convincing. For example, the section on housing presents a discussion of sites, roads, architecture, bathrooms, age of houses, occupancy, maintenance, screening, housekeeping, fire protection, heat and light, leases and sales, bachelor quarters, water supplies, sewage disposal, garbage collection and disposal, and wash houses.

It is quite impossible, in the space of a brief review, to present a detailed discussion of the findings of this large report. Suffice it to say that in general the provisions and facilities were disclosed to range in quality from very bad to good. To cite a simple example, bathrooms were observed in only 10 per cent of company owned houses, while of privately owned houses 31 per cent had bathrooms with tubs or showers or both. Some 11.6 per cent of company owned houses were provided with sewage systems and septic tanks, while 41.7 per cent of privately owned houses were so provided.

It is quite apparent that the coal worker does not share the degree of benefits which one finds other workers of approximately the same economic status enjoying. The report concludes with six pages of recommendations which point up to the important future steps which must be taken to bring the coal mining industry and the workers in the industry to what might be considered the general level surrounding the workers of similar economic status of other industries in the country. The report closes with a supplement, *The Coal Miner and his Family*. This presents a very interesting picture of the life and surroundings of the coal miner, separate from his occupation. The topography and make-up of the report is excellent

and throughout one finds photographs which are at the same time interesting and informative and fine examples of the photographer's art.

The Coal Mines Administrator and the Director of the Medical Survey Group are to be congratulated on the production of a most interesting and valuable public health document.

LEONARD GREENBURG

Babies Don't Bounce—By *Bil Sullivan*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1947. 48 pp. Price, \$1.50.

The author of this book of amusing and instructive cartoons in eye catching blue and pink, presents his points with the realism of actual experience. He is the father of Kathy, 4½, and Bil, Jr., 6 months.

Part One deals with Baby vs the Home, and Part Two is entitled, Baby Goes Out.

In forty-one lively sketches as many common hazards are pointed out. As the foreword says: "Keeping an eye on Baby is a twenty-four hour job but it's worth it! Wee One reacts automatically to noise, motion and various original ideas of his own, though not always in the best interests of safe living. Our purpose is to give mother (and Dad too) pointers on how to anticipate the entanglements her offsprings may get into in the course of everyday living."

The public health nurse and pediatrician may find this little text a useful tool in safety education.

E. M. HENDRIKSEN

The Future of Housing — By *Charles Abrams*. New York: Harper, 1946. 428 pp. Price \$5.00.

The United States has no housing policy or program. Instead we have a serious nation-wide problem and no immediate prospects for its solution. Until more voters know more about the morass of housing, there is unlikely to be legislative enthusiasm to tangle with the